

Fall, 1977

# Quick Strokes

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## Multinational publishing house simplifies keyboard work

Eight office typewriters with keyboards arranged for the AS variant of the Dvorak Simplified have been delivered to the Sydney, Australia, branch of Commerce Clearing House.

The make is SCM, and the dealer is American Simplified Keyboards, of Box 34, Newport Beach 2106, Australia.

The prestigious publishing firm specializes in compilations of laws and regulations, which are consulted by lawyers and laymen throughout the United States as well as abroad. CCL is headquartered in Chicago.

## Public stenographer improves her output with Simplified keyboard

"Mary V. Kerzner of Hollis, New York, a public stenographer, has now increased her words per minute from 77 (standard electric) to 130 (Dvorak), virtually doubling her income," according to Applied Optics for November, 1977.

The income estimate, by John N. Howard, chief scientist at the Air Force Geophysics Laboratory at Hanscom AFB, in Massachusetts, and editor of the scholarly monthly, is plausible. The cruising pace rises, along with the racing pace, in retraining, and perhaps in greater proportion. Ms. Kerzner's rent, utilities, and advertising do not necessarily rise with her output.

## Write to Michael Schmitt

Some things -- many things -- can be done better jointly than separately. Equipment procurement, operator recruitment or training, these can be done better with the advantage of pooled information and experience.

Michael Schmitt, proprietor of a commercial word processing center, The

See page 2

## Keeping their hands in

Careful records were kept for the first ten hours of instruction in a retraining course in Dvorak variant keyboard input at Oregon State University, Corvallis, under the following regimen:

Periods of drill on the variant varied in length from one hour to two hours or more. Between each Dvorak drill and the next, students put in a mandatory fifteen minutes of drill on the traditional (qwerty, Sholes) arrangement.

At the ten-hour point, the class, of 32 undergraduates, had an average score of 37 words per minute on the Dvorak variant.

The learning pace was faster than the same teacher had brought about in previous, comparable classes. The students in this Fall, 1977, class may have been younger than the in-service teachers who comprised the Summer quarter class.

Bradley J. Lessley, the instructor, calls the data too scanty to draw conclusions from. Quick Strokes infers, nevertheless, that the procedure is not disastrous.

## Please subscribe to Quick Strokes

Some of the Quick Strokes circulation is paid and will be delivered regularly. Some is promotional and will be mailed from time to time without any assurance of regularity.

Once a quarter is none too often to keep track of Dvorak developments. A payment of \$10 for two years or \$5 for one year will put you on the paid subscriber list. Address

Quick Strokes  
Box 643

West Sacramento, California 95691.

## Write to, from 1

Wordshop, Suite 716, 5431 East River Road, Chicago, IL 60656, will acknowledge letters indicating your willingness to participate in the formation of local, state, national, and international American Simplified Keyboard Users' associations.

The Illinois Users, % Schmitt, would no doubt appreciate contributions to assist with stationery and mailing expense.

## A prophet with honor in her own country

The St. Louis, Missouri, Post-Dispatch for Sept. 28, 1977, devotes seven column inches to Barbara Blackburn, of Lee's Summit, same state, and her cruising pace at a typewriter of 170 words a minute.

The inches are the last in a story about Guinness Book record holders and are the only cheerful part. There is not much demand, it seems, for great frisbee throwers, egg throwers, or brick carriers.

World's Fastest Secretary Blackburn, however, has a bid to go to Australia, fare paid and employment assured. The prospective employer, not named in the P-D, is Ronald Watson.

## Query on keyboard simplification for Continental languages

Mr. Lawrence Mee, of Esperanto Lingvo Internacia, Rotterdam, the Netherlands, writes,

"Being Esperantists, we are particularly interested in any applications of DSK which include the 'dead' keys by which the necessary supersigns can be typed. Have you had any reports of DSK in use in Europe, or for languages other than English?"

Write to R. & E. Heidelberg, Postfach 202, 8032 Zurich, Switzerland, or to Andrea Winter, Dolderstr. 39, 8032 Zurich, Switzerland, enclosing five Swiss francs or the equivalent, to order a copy of the diagram of the Swiss Simplified Keyboard.

Miss Winter's SSK-arranged typewriter

was bought from Speedy Keyboard Enterprises, Inc., Box 643, West Sacramento, California 95691. It has no dead keys but does have two removable type slugs. She writes in German, French, and English and reports good skill easily attained.

## For Latin alphabet instruction

Mr. Udayan C. Amdekar, of Bombay, India, congratulates Marlo McCauley, of Lompoc, California, on her achievement in Simplified typing and in reading. See Quick Strokes 14, back cover.

He recalls the experiment he made in September, 1975, with seven children of ages seven to nine from a school in Bombay, all beginners at the Latin alphabet. He trained them all for 45 minutes a day for five days directly on typewriters. He made use of the "Udayan Electrovisual Language-cum-type-writing Teaching Twin" machine, a visual aid of his invention. The children were able to read and typewrite more than a dozen sentences and 25 words. While stroking the keyboard, they uttered the spelling, pronounced the words and recited the meanings.

## Dick Land lectures

Dick Land, of the Harvard University Engineering Science Laboratory, illustrates each of his lectures on Technological Seeing or Interactive Computer Graphics with a brief reference to the Dvorak Simplified arrangement of characters for alphanumeric keyboards. He has returned to Oxford Street after a series of thirteen lectures under university or scholarly association auspices, as follows:

In India, at Delhi, twice in Bombay, twice in Bangalore. In Australia, three times at Perth and once each in Melbourne and Canberra. In New Zealand, at Wellington and Auckland. In California, at Monterey.

## Speedy Keyboard application specialists

Daniel Adachi, 20 Carlton St., No. 3, Somerville, MA 02143, and Belmont Adams, 4 Park Ave., Scarborough, ME 04074, for ASK and MDSK machines.



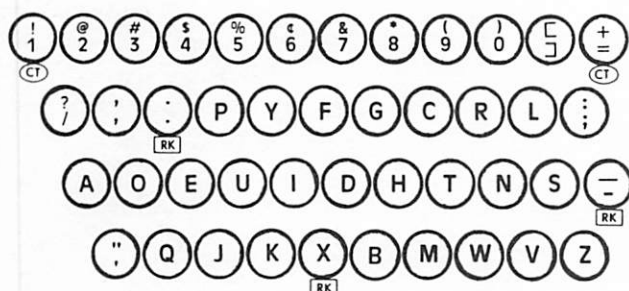
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Coronamatic 1200, with long platen and lever carriage return	. .	\$284.00

Speedy Keyboard Enterprises, Inc.  
Box 643  
West Sacramento, California 95691  
Telephone 916-446-3377

### Trudging toward a standard

With a closing date of December 23, 1977, a draft standard and a letter ballot are in the hands of the members of American National Standards Working Group X4DSK. The next step, if a consensus is reached, is submission to the parent committee, ANSC X4.

The draft represents a rather "loose", nonrestrictive standard, with the alphabet and the lower-case punctuation marks in the classic Dvorak-Dealey locations but with the semicolon-colon pair relegated to the right side and with the digit row and the upper-case locations above period and comma left to the user's option.

If the draft becomes a standard and if it is observed as such, it will reduce to two the number of Dvorak variants in contention. These are ASK, diagrammed on page 3, and MDSK, which is the same thing with the digits in 7, 5, 3, 1, 9, 0, 2, 4, 6, 8 order and with special symbols at the E01 location, the left-little-finger stroke at the left end of the top row.

### More Simplified applications in Oregon

Eight Oregon State Civil Service operators are in training or at work on Dvorak variant keyboards at a state agency office in Portland, according to Bradley Lessley. He has been instrumental also in launching a five-operator training program at a private word processing center in the same city. The center is expecting delivery of an order for Vydec units with the variant arrangement and has plans for reorienting more operators to the improved keyboard.

### One Olympia 65 office typewriter with DS keyboard in Atlanta

Write to Howard M. Hudson, 1105-R Clairmont Ave., Decatur, Georgia 30030, for description and whereabouts of a brand new Olympia 65 typewriter on hand for immediate delivery.

### SK application specialist

Gerald Baker, 2119 $\frac{1}{2}$  College St., Apt. 5, Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613, for ASK or MDSK equipment.